GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1523
ANSWERED ON:01.08.2001
INDO-GULF COUNTRIES TIES
AVSM, BRIG.(RETD.) KAMAKHYA PRASAD SINGH DEO

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for further improving relations with Gulf countries;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH)

(a & b) Yes, Sir. With a view to expand already existing good relations with Gulf region countries several high level visits have taken place. In the recent past, several Indian Ministers i.e. EAM, MOS (EA), MOS for Small Scale Industries, MOS (Home) and MC (Commerce) visited Gulf countries for further strengthening bilateral relations. The Vice-President of Iraq visited India in November-December, 2000 and their Transport and Communications Minister visited India in July, 2001.Several agreements and MoUs were signed during these visits.

A number of business delegations relating to trade and investment have been exchanged between India and the Gulf countries.A number of high level visits are proposed to be exchanged later this year and the early part of the next year.

(c) Not applicable.